

WE CLAIM:

1. A ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising:

2 a capillary having a pair of opposing ends, an outer surface extending
between the opposing ends and a hole extending between the opposing ends for insertion
4 of an optical fiber strand therein;

6 a flange molded onto the capillary outer surface intermediate the capillary
opposing ends such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not
covered by the molded flange.

2 2. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange is molded from a plastic
material.

3. The ferrule of claim 1, further comprising a recess portion and a
2 complementary projecting portion extending into the recess portion, the recess portion
4 and projecting portion being formed at an interface between the capillary outer surface
and the flange.

4. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed in the
2 capillary outer surface and the projecting portion is formed integral with the flange.

5. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed integral with
2 the flange and the projecting portion is formed in the capillary outer surface.

6. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange has a cylindrical outer surface
2 comprising a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.

7. A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical fiber connector
2 comprising the step of molding a flange onto an outer surface of a capillary intermediate
opposing ends of the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each
4 opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

8. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
2 comprising the steps of:

4 forming a recess portion in the outer surface of the capillary prior to
molding; and

6 forming, integral with the flange, a complementary projecting portion that
extends intimately into the recess portion of the capillary outer surface during molding of
the flange.

9. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
2 comprising the steps of:

4 forming a projecting portion in the outer surface of the capillary; and
filling a space surrounding the projecting portion with a molding material during
molding.